

Central District of Illinois

Civil prisoner cases needing Pro Bono Counsel

Any attorney interested in helping as Pro Bono counsel may contact the Pro Bono Coordinator for the Central District of Illinois, Marleen Cooke at 217-492-5204 or Marleen_Cooke@ilcd.uscourts.gov.

The Central District of Illinois Plan for Recruitment of Counsel has a cap of \$1,000.00 for reimbursement of expenses.

18-4189 – Hardin v Wexford Healthcare, et al.

Plaintiff is a civil detainee at the Rushville Treatment and Detention. Plaintiff alleges Defendants violated his constitutional rights under the Fourteenth Amendment by maintaining policies prohibiting the provision of testosterone treatment to residents at Rushville TDF. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendants alleged refusal to treat his hypogonadism (i.e., sex glands produce little or no hormones) amounts to “neglect” in violation of the Illinois Mental Health and Disabilities Code.

19-3173 Hanks v Twaddell, et al.

Plaintiff Hanks is currently incarcerated at Western Illinois Correctional Center. Plaintiff alleges that Western Illinois Correctional Center denied his right to practice his religion (Islam). Plaintiff states a plausible First Amendment claim for the denial of his right to practice his religion and retaliation when he filed grievances about those denials.

19-4168 Kugler v Scott

Plaintiff is civilly detained, in sexually violent persons treatment at Rushville. Plaintiff would like to possess legal pornography but Rushville’s policy prohibits it. While there may be a valid treatment-based reason for Rushville’s ban, under circuit precedent *Brown v. Phillips*, 801 F.3d 849, 853 (7th Cir. 2015) the evidentiary showing required to support such a ban must be case-specific, and is a fairly rigorous standard. At summary judgment, Defendants failed to show Rushville’s policy is rationally related to a legitimate governmental interest, so Defendants’ summary judgment motion was denied. This case is now ready to proceed to a jury trial.

20-1285 Richardson v Brown, et al.

Plaintiff Joshua Richardson is currently incarcerated at Big Muddy River Correctional Center. Mr. Richardson alleges he was severely injured in a violent incident on August 4, 2019. Plaintiff alleges that he intervened to assist another inmate who was being attacked in the “Big Yard” at Pontiac and a melee ensued. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Corley, a lieutenant at Pontiac, pepper sprayed him in the face.

While Plaintiff was lying face down on the ground with his hands cuffed behind his back, Defendants Corley, Molinero, Miller, Bernhard, Boguszewski, Byrd, Foster, Green, Ledbetter, Pratt, and Richmond allegedly pulled his arms up and pushed them toward the back of his head. After the attack, Plaintiff was taken to the healthcare unit for medical treatment and was later transported by ambulance to the emergency room. The Court also permitted Plaintiff to proceed on a failure-to-intervene claim against Defendant Brown, a major at Pontiac, based on the delay in removing Plaintiff's handcuffs in the healthcare unit.

20-1404 Jones v Cox

Plaintiff Gregory D. Jones is incarcerated at Pinckneyville Correctional Center. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant William Cox, the former warden at Pontiac Correctional Center, violated his Eighth Amendment rights by denying renewal of a special cuffing permit in July 2020. The permit allowed Plaintiff's hands to be cuffed in front of a security belt instead of behind Plaintiff's back with no security belt. The permit was initially issued in January 2017 due to a shoulder injury. Plaintiff claims that cuffing his hands behind his back causes him pain and further injury.

20-3155 Walker v Scott, et al.

Plaintiff Mark Walker's Complaint states a claim under the Rehabilitation Act against Defendant Jeffreys in his official capacity only. Plaintiff, who is legally blind, explains that the Illinois Correctional Industries ("ICI") is a job training program that permits eligible inmates to learn a skill while earning income and a half-day of good time credit for each day in the program. Plaintiff claims that Western prohibits inmates with disabilities from participating in the ICI program even if they can perform the training and the work assignments. Specifically, Plaintiff claims that he was denied Food Handler Status because of his disability, which states a claim under the American with Disabilities Act.

21-1188 Jordan v Tyes, et al.

Plaintiff Jordan is incarcerated at Western Illinois Correctional Center. Plaintiff states the following claims: A) Against Defendant Tyes: Eighth Amendment claim for a pat down search conducted in an unconstitutional manner on March 14, 2019, and a First Amendment claim for retaliating against Plaintiff for filing a PREA complaint or other grievances against Defendant Tyes. B) Against Defendants Duckworth, Sellers, and Sartain: Failure to intervene to prevent or stop the alleged unconstitutional pat down and retaliation by Defendant Tyes. C) Against Defendants Bernstein, Newbauer, Sellers, Sartain, and Bailey: Eighth Amendment claim for failing to protect Plaintiff from a substantial risk of assault by inmate Tolbert. This case proceeds solely on the claims and against the Defendants identified in paragraph above.

22-3134 Herrera v Clarkson, et al.

The plaintiff is incarcerated at Western Illinois Correctional Center. Plaintiff alleges that officials at Western Illinois Correctional Center (“Western”) refused to provide diagnostic testing for ongoing lower back pain, resulting in unnecessary pain. Plaintiff states an Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to a serious medical need against the named defendants.

22-3230 Jones v Case

Plaintiff Jones is incarcerated at Logan Correctional Center. The Plaintiff has a single Eighth Amendment claim based upon the conditions of her confinement at Logan Correctional Center. The Plaintiff claims that she has mental health issues that make it difficult for her to litigate this case herself.

21-4160 Price v Osmundson, et al.

Plaintiff Price is incarcerated at Hill Correctional Center. Plaintiff Price alleges deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs at Hill Correctional Center and proceeds on an Eighth Amendment claim as to defendants Kramer and Omundson.